

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7938**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 492

**DATE PREPARED:** Mar 5, 2001

**BILL AMENDED:** Mar 5, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Firearms on school property.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** David Hoppmann

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9559

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**      **GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill requires a school superintendent or designee to immediately notify law enforcement authorities if a student brings a firearm or bomb onto school property or is in possession of a firearm or bomb on school property. It provides that the superintendent or superintendent's designee may give similar notice if a deadly weapon other than a firearm or bomb is involved. It requires a law enforcement agency that receives notice from a superintendent to investigate and take appropriate action. It removes a requirement that the superintendent notify the county prosecutor in similar situations.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) School corporations would experience no additional administrative expenses.

Under current Indiana law, a superintendent must notify the prosecuting attorney (of the county where the school is located) if a student is expelled for bringing a firearm onto school property or for possessing a firearm on school property. This bill would require that the superintendent immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency if a student brings a firearm or bomb onto school property or possesses such a weapon on school property. In addition, this bill would require that a law enforcement agency receiving notification, begin an investigation and take appropriate action.

Currently, superintendents typically contact local law enforcement agencies when a student displays the above behavior. After notification, law enforcement agencies usually begin appropriate investigations. Since these agencies already respond to and investigate such cases, they are not likely to incur any additional

administrative expenses.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** Currently, some small local jurisdictions are served by prosecuting attorneys' offices that hire investigators who might research cases concerning students bringing a deadly weapon to school. These small jurisdictions could experience a decrease in administrative time and cost in accordance with this bill.

The effects of this bill would vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and would depend upon local action.

The following table illustrates the number of Indiana public school expulsions for the 1998-1999 school year.

<b>1998-1999 Indiana Public School Expulsions for Deadly Weapons/Firearms by Grade</b>														
	<b>KG</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Deadly Weapons (other than firearms)</b>	1	3	4	11	8	17	44	63	58	78	50	41	35	413
<b>Handguns</b>					1	4	2	4	11	18	12	6	12	70
<b>Rifles or Shotguns</b>							1		5	1		5	2	14
<b>Other Firearms</b>				1			1	2	3	3	5	1	2	18
<b>Totals</b>	1	3	4	12	9	21	48	69	77	100	67	53	51	515

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** School Corporations, County Prosecuting Attorneys' Offices, and Law Enforcement Agencies.

**Information Sources:** J.D. Lux, Attorney General's Office, (317) 233-6312; Steve Johnson, Prosecuting Attorney's Council, (317) 232-1836; Kevin McDowell, General Council, Department of Education; DOE ORACLE Data Tables.